



ASA-A23

Translation of Japanese Office Action issued on June 22, 2004

The present application is to be rejected for the following ground. If there is any opinion against the ground, a written opinion is to be presented within 60 days after the issue date of this notice.

#### Ground

The invention according to the following claims of the present application can be easily conceived by those skilled in the art in the technological field of the invention before filing the application based on the invention disclosed in the following publication distributed before the filing date of the present application in Japan or abroad. Therefore, the invention is not patentable pursuant to the provision of Article 29, section 2 of the Japanese Patent Law.

Note (refer to the List of Citations, etc. for referenced citations)

1. Citations 1, 2, 3, and 4 for claims 1 and 3

Citations 1 and 2: Known art to be compared with the entry list

Citation 3: Known art for retrieval by grouping using a hash value

Citation 4: Example of storing not only IDs but also grouping information in media

#### List of Citations, etc.

1. JP-A-10-187826
2. JP-A-63-298681
3. JP-A-09-091303
4. JP-A-06-274720

No ground of rejection has been detected up to the present time on the inventions according to the claims other than those pointed out in this notice of rejection.

A ground of rejection is reported when it is newly detected.

When any amendment is made, care is to be exercised to make it within the scope of the items described in the specifications or drawings of the present application, and the ground of the amendment is to be stated in the written opinion by clearly pointing out the related descriptions in the specifications or drawings in the filed application.

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Record of the search result on the documents of the prior art technology

Field searched      IPC 7th version  
                         G06K17/00  
                         G07F 7/08

The record of the search result on the documents of the prior art technology does not configure a ground of rejection.